

Lieutenant Erik D. Schneider
Executive Officer
Fleet Combat Camera Pacific

Lieutenant Erik Schneider, of San Diego, Calif., enlisted in the Navy in April 1994 and attended Recruit Training at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Following recruit training, he reported to the Defense Information School at Ft Benjamin Harrison, Ind., where he completed Journalist A and C school and earned qualification as a broadcaster.

His first duty assignment was at Naval Air Reserve San Diego where he served as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer, coordinating the public affairs training and photographic support for more than 36 reserve units and five aircraft squadrons.

He next reported aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in January 1998 where he served as the Leading Petty Officer in the Public Affairs division. Participation in the RIMPAC'98 exercise tested and proved his division's capabilities which later provided exceptional coverage of the ship's offensive strikes in Operation Desert Fox and later enforcing the no-fly zones in Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch.

In 2001 he reported aboard the joint-service Defense Information School at Ft Meade, Maryland to serve as a Radio Skills instructor and Team Chief, teaching broadcasting skills to more than 800 service members designated to serve at American Forces Network radio and television stations across the globe. It was at this assignment where Lieutenant Schneider was selected for promotion to Chief Petty Officer.

Lieutenant Schneider next reported to Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific in 2004 where he served as the Video Production Leading Chief Petty Officer and Detachment Chief. Here he led documentation teams to support the multinational RIMPAC '04 exercise as well as the inaugural multinational exercise Talisman Saber '05. He also led a detachment headquartered out of Manama, Bahrain and personally led a 3-man team into Iraq to document Explosive Ordnance Disposal efforts combating the then-new threat of improvised explosive devices. It was during this assignment where he was selected for commissioning as a Photography Officer.

Following his commissioning, Lieutenant Schneider reported for duty at Navy Public Affairs Support Element West. Here he served as Division Officer and Assistant Officer in Charge, leading a team of 90 Sailors across four locations throughout the Pacific Fleet and coordinating more than 15 small-team detachments supporting the fleet.

In April 2009, Lieutenant Schneider again reported aboard USS Carl Vinson, this time as the Media Department Division Officer and Deputy Public Affairs Officer. Here he received the Navy Chief of Information Merit Award for his coordination of the documentation and public release of imagery for Operation Unified Response, the humanitarian assistance mission for the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and the groundbreaking usage of social media as a primary means to disseminate information and imagery to a worldwide audience during a crisis. Through his extensive planning and leadership during the NCAA Carrier Classic basketball game, hosted aboard Carl Vinson, his department was the recipient of the 2011 Thompson-Ravitz award for Excellence in Public Affairs.

In November 2012, Lieutenant Schneider reported for duty at Fleet Combat Camera Pacific where he currently serves as the Executive Officer.

He is authorized to wear the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (seven awards), as well as various unit and campaign awards.